

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FACT SHEET

(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

Permittee: Newmont Mining Corporation
427 Ridge Street, Suite C
Reno, Nevada 89501

Permit: NEV95016 - Renewal

Location: Carlin - South Operations Area
Carlin, Eureka County, Nevada
Township 33N, Range 51E, Sections 2, 11, 12, 13 MDB&M
Latitude 41° 00' N, Longitude 116° 11' W

Flow: 40,000 gallons per day (0.040 MGD, 30-day average)

General Description: The permitted discharge is sewage and septage generated by the workforce at the Permittee's South and North Operations Areas, (SOA) and (NOA), respectively, to the Mill 5/6 Tailings Storage Facility (TSF). The Mill 5/6 TSF is located approximately six miles north of Carlin, Nevada.

Sewage, approximately 15,000 gallons per day (gpd), that originates from the various facilities of the SOA is thoroughly combined with mill tailings. The primary sewage sump includes two grinders. The sewage is discharged with the tailings to the Mill 5/6 TSF. Septage that originates from the various septic tanks and portable toilets of the SOA is collected by septage pump trucks and introduced to the lift station, where it is subsequently pumped to the Mill 5/6 TSF via the Mill 5/6 tails sump. The discharge volume of the SOA sewage averages 3,500 gpd. In October 1998, the Division authorized the Permittee to truck additional septage from the NOA to the SOA for disposal in the Mill 5/6 TSF via the lift station. The discharge volume of the NOA septage averages approximately 400 gpd.

The tailings deposition is accomplished by numerous dropbars located along the north and west sides of the Mill 5/6 TSF. Because the relatively small amount of sewage is thoroughly mixed with tailings, 14,400,000 gpd, and distributed around the Mill 5/6 TSF, there is limited potential for sewage to accumulate in concentrations that could pose a threat to human health.

During shut down of Mills 5 and 6, the Permittee is authorized to direct discharge the sewage to the Mill 5/6 TSF for a maximum of fourteen (14) consecutive days. During Mill 5/6 TSF maintenance, the Permittee is authorized to discharge the tailings/sewage slurry to the James Creek TSF for a maximum of fourteen (14) consecutive days.

The Mill 5/6 TSF receives an average of 22 million tons of mill tailings slurry (38% solids) each year, and has a design capacity of 130 million tons of tailing solids. Contributed sewage consists of human waste, sanitary paper products, and washwater. The liquid fraction of this waste is recovered with the proportionally greater volume of reclaim tails solution from the mill tailings and is used for mill or leach make-up water.

The SOA has a combined sewer system, therefore, the sewage discharge rate is determined by the estimated waste/sewage flow rates of Uniform Plumbing Code and the septage discharge rate is determined by the number of septic pump trucks dumped into the system. The flow meter records these two discharges and stormwater flow collected by the system.

Receiving Water Characteristics: The Mill 5/6 TSF is a zero discharge facility, as authorized by Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) NEV90056, issued by the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation. The inactive James Creek TSF is authorized by WPCP NEV50031.

Procedures for Public Comment: The Notice of the Division's intent to re-issue a permit authorizing the Permittee to continue to discharge sewage/septage to the Permittee's tailings storage facilities, subject to the conditions contained within the permit, is being sent to the **Elko Daily Free Press** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of 30 days following the date of the public notice, by 5:00 PM June 5, 2001. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX or any interested agency, person, or group of persons. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determined to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted to accordance with NAC 445A.236. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

Proposed Determination: The Division has made the tentative determination to re-issue the proposed permit for a period of five (5) years.

Schedule of Compliance and Special Conditions: The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance, upon approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications that the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance.

- a. The Permittee shall achieve compliance with the effluent limitations upon issuance of the permit.
- b. Sixty (60) days prior to exceeding a daily maximum discharge rate of 22,000 gpd, the Permittee shall submit an engineering analysis of the combined sewer system that determines the capacity of the system to the Division. The discharge rate may be increased to a maximum of 40,000 gpd, based system capacity certification by a Nevada licenced professional engineer.
- c. The Permittee shall submit a revised O & M Manual to the Division by June 30, 2001.

There are no special conditions.

Rationale For Permit Requirements: The Permittee will be required to monitor the make-up water for fecal coliform prior to its use at the mill or leaching operation to assess the potential for contamination of the make-up water by the sewage.

Prepared by: Bruce Holmgren
Date: April 2001

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